Re Jack Anderson column 12/24/76

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Dear Jim,

While I'm easing off from some pressures following your call about the call to you by AP's David Martin a few suggestions for the future.

By the time I was able to think it through enough and then star Martin's story was on the wire.

Because of the holiday it took me a little longer. Too many not in.

We'll see.

In the course of it I learned that Crewdson hates Freed like you hate normal hours, only more so. Lene about the same.

Crewdson was thinking of me and had Martin's copy before him when I reached him.

This gets to one of the basic principles, if you'll pardon the avuncular. The formulation everyone knows is that it takes a crook to catch a crook. So your son improvising.

The second will not be as easy because you do have great time pressures and much else on your mind. However, there is going to be much of this in the days ahead. So if you have the time and if you can come to think of it please let me know soonest.

Crewdson is not the only one working on this as of this minute and the others, more reluctant, has a different angle.

Again the avuncular, please tolerate. You've heard me speak of intellctual judo often enough. To be able to apply it you must be alert to the moment. This means perceiving the mistake by those whose power you would turn against them. This was such a moment.

Also never assume that bright reporters have minimal common sense. In ten years you will be whipping Jennifer's back side and standing her in the corner to think if she is as stupid as the Crewdsons and the Lardners.

There was this difference: Lardner argued and Crewdson thanked. He actually said how glad he was I called and said he had to get on the stick. I asked both what, believe it or not, nobody thought of: if Ray met a co-conspirator in Portigal how come he left the meeting with so little money he got caught for that reason alone. John got it right away and was appreciative. (Bet Fauntroy has had a busy day!) George argued maybe Ray went there to get a phone call. I told him look, if you want to get your ass beat keep thinking negatively. He guess it was O'Leary. I told him I would not tell him and he knew better than to ask.

I'm sorry everybody was off. It may or may not work out but it could have been better. But as of 4 p.m. I'm a little p optimistic.

This was a big and a stupid mistake.

Martin learned from you and changed his story, but in so much of a rush it held part of what he wanted out. He left out a description of the source other than one who had seen Ray. He did not use the limitation of no member of the family, etc. But he did quote you in what became a non-sequitur, that it had to be a guard, etc.

Come to think of it, maybe Memphis hoked that up, through a guard of 1968-9.

I did not believe there was much chance of the AP story read to me making much of a splash outside of newsrooms but I did odds and ends of cleaning up for almost 2 hours, the first to all-news WAVA and then to NBC's Baltimore station. I should have thought to try WTOP, which is an early, first but I didn't until after the evening pattern when we can't get it. Anyway, no mention. Some'll see if there are a.m. stories and if they get any attention.

Best,